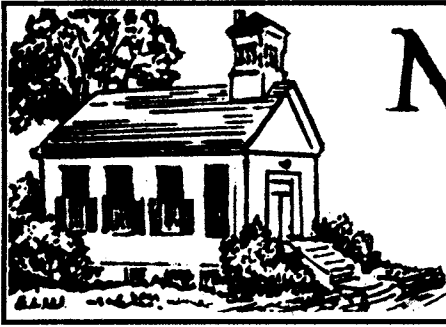




MONTEREY NEWS

March 2016
Est. 1970 Vol. XLVI · Number 3



The Town

By Jill Pajka

Notes on select board meetings from January 25 to February 8.

Monterey School Open Meeting

The board has received quite a few phone calls and inquiries regarding the suspension of the Monterey School program for the 2016-2017 school year. In response, the board felt it best to hold an open discussion regarding the future of the school on Wednesday, February 24, at 7 p.m., in the town hall meeting room. The decision to discontinue the school's program for the year is heavy, hard news, and the board acknowledges that town residents may want to voice their opinions, suggestions, and questions about it.

The board discussed requesting an open dialogue with Berkshire Hills Regional School District superintendent Peter Dillon, who may be able to offer support regarding our current school issues. The board also discussed having the town counsel to review the current regional agreement between the five towns of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD)—Monterey, Egremont, Sheffield, New Marlborough, and Alford. The agreement affirms that each town of the SBRSD is allowed to have their own school, as long as four of the five towns approves. These approvals are determined at each town's annual town meeting.

The town counsel may investigate other options for the Monterey School that would allow for a break in the agreement, due to a breach of the contract made earlier this year. The board believes that these continued dialogues may help town



Steve Snyder from his iPad

The Monterey fire company responded to a structure fire at the Gould Farm chicken barn at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 23. Above- Felix Carroll at the west door. For more pictures and information, see pages 22 and 23.

residents understand, support, and plan for the future of the Monterey School—and perhaps unveil new hope for the town and our school.

Solar Solutions Ahead

In late January, the board met with Jennifer Engelson of the Hampshire Council of Governments. The Hampshire Council is a consortium of towns seeking solutions to local issues by acting regionally, providing services to municipalities, schools, nonprofits, businesses, and individuals in western Massachusetts. Located in Northampton, it is a regional, financially self-reliant cooperative and receives no state aid or tax revenue. Instead, their annual budget is supported completely by assessed membership dues, program fees, grants, and earned revenues.

“I’m here today to bring a new program to your attention: Hampshire Solar,” she stated. Describing the Hampshire Solar program, Engelson detailed how clients can pay for electricity from a remote solar farm at discounted rates. Access to this program is on a “first come, first serve” basis. The program’s remote solar farm is in collaboration with Nexamp, a solar energy company that manages broad project planning and technical capabilities. Nexamp develops, designs, finances, builds, and operates commercial-scale solar power systems. They also have more than two hundred completed solar systems, totaling over fifty megawatts of solar-generating capacity. Nexamp’s services are open to homeowners and small businesses in the National Grid territory in Massachusetts, which includes Monterey.

Engelson continued, "This partnership lets us provide a discount of 15% off the current supply rate."

"Is that in addition to our current discount rate?" asked select board chair Scott Jenssen, citing the discount the town receives through Colonial Power.

"Yes," confirmed Engelson. "It's 15% off the bill [for electrical supply]. The contract is good for two years. However, you're never required to stick with it. You can opt out of the contract with a six-month notice."

She explained how becoming a member of the Hampshire Solar program is entirely individual. This means for those wishing to join the program, a town meeting or vote would not be necessary. She also explained how there is no roof installation or maintenance needed. Nexamp takes care of everything.

"Well, why not!" chuckled select board member Kenn Basler. "Why aren't people doing this? Why haven't they heard about it?"

"I really think it's an education thing," responded Engelson. "A lot of people haven't had the opportunity to hear about it ... and, I mean, that's the reason we're reaching out."

"Do you have competitors?" asked Basler.

"Yes," said Engelson. "The difference is that they lock their customers in for twenty years. We offer the 15% discount ... and you're not locked in for twenty years."

Engelson elaborated further on the process of signing up, stating that the slots do tend to fill up quickly. Customers who sign up for the program tend to be those who have been considering solar power installation but may not have the ideal location or setup to do it. Others have wondered if it was financially possible or if solar panel installation and maintenance would be worth it in the end.

"What if you already have solar on your roof?" asked Jenssen, citing how he already has plans to install his own system.

"As long as you're receiving a bill from the National Grid, your credits can be allocated," confirmed Engelson.

"This is beneficial for someone like me, who lives in shade and can't have their own [solar panels]," noted board member Steve Weisz.

"Exactly," nodded Engelson. "Or someone who rents or has a second home."

The board unanimously agreed to sign up the municipal accounts, sending in copies of the recent National Grid and Colonial Power bills. For those interested in learning more about Hampshire Solar and Nexamp, their website is hampshire.solar.org. Jennifer Engelson has also offered her contact information and is available to elaborate on the program and answer any questions.

Lifeguard Contract

Parks commission chair Kelly Tryon met with the board to discuss issues regarding the lifeguard services, supervision, and payroll for Lake Garfield.

"We hire a lot of young kids on their breaks from college and high school," explained Tryon. "We have some that come back every year, but we always have new training and just not enough supervision to stay on top of everything [at the lake]. People in town have been complaining."

"There's only one lifeguard on duty, usually? Are there supervisors around?" asked Scott Jenssen.

"Day-to-day supervision is difficult," continued Tryon. "We need better management, and the right people to manage the lifeguards."

Tryon explained how the parks and recreation commission has been working with Berkshire South Regional Community Center to create a contract to manage the lifeguard services. The nonprofit, Great Barrington-located community center would be responsible for trainings, payroll, human resources, scheduling, and general management of the Lake Garfield lifeguard services. The parks commission also plans to work with the police department and the fire company to determine emergency action plans.

"Hopefully, this will get the pressure off the parks," Tryon insisted. Kenn Basler requested that a Berkshire South representative make a presentation to the board.

Tryon explained how the financial situation affects Lake Garfield's lifeguard services. She stated that, currently, \$17,000 supports the season's payroll. To support the upcoming season which includes Berkshire South's administrative and insurance fees, she recommends creating a separate line item of \$26,272. Tryon also stated that she has been working an extra, unpaid twelve hours a week to supervise lifeguards and cover the gaps, but cannot continue to do this any longer, as it's been affecting her business.

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The parks commission has also determined that for the months of March through June, \$5,459 will be necessary to cover expenses. Unfortunately, this amount is not currently in the 2016 budget. The select board decided to make a request for the determined amount at the special town meeting set for February. *(Note: This amount was reduced to \$4,100 at the special town meeting. See page 7.)*

"We have to get the finance committee to support this," said Jenssen.

Later in the month, the finance committee met with the police department and the parks commission. They discussed the lifeguard services situation and budget requests for the season. The finance committee was "100 percent in support" of providing budget assistance to the parks commission.

Later in the month, Steve Weisz stated that the parks commission had met again and discussed the lifeguard services schedule and payroll. They agreed to decrease lifeguard hours from eight hours a day to six hours. This cut in hours — and payroll dollars — would save the town approximately \$6,000 for the season. (See page 9 for further explanation of the parks commission decision to use Berkshire South's services.)

Other Updates and Renovations

The board met with the finance committee and Shawn Tryon, director of operations, to receive several updates from around town. Tryon stated that John Fields completed brush work on Route 23 from Stevens Lake Road to 155 Main Road. The board and Tryon discussed work needed on the dam behind Monterey Library, but he is still determining the costs before any work can begin.

The board and Tryon also discussed combining departmental gas expense accounts into a single account. Currently, the highway, fire, and police departments each submit requests and have to shift money internally to pay for gas costs. The board accepted this approach.

Looking to the future, the board plans to discuss renovations for the Curtis Road bridge as well as other projected road projects and maintenance for the upcoming two to three years. The board requested that Tryon help by giving them a list of projects slated for the near future.

After much planning earlier this year, the board confirmed that the billing computer program is officially up and running. The new cards for the system have been ordered as well.

Youth Baseball Sign-ups

The Monterey Cal Ripken League youth baseball sign-ups and free spring training for players five to twelve years old starts on March 6. There are no tryouts required and equipment is provided.

Players eight to twelve years old, from beginners to all-stars, living in Monterey, Great Barrington, Otis, Becket, Sandisfield, Mill River, and surrounding towns, are welcome at free spring training batting practices indoors at the Farmington River School on Route 8 in Otis, starting Sunday, March 6, from 2 to 3 p.m., and again on March 20, April 3, and April 10. After that, outdoor practices and games for players eight to ten years old will be at Greene Park in Monterey.

Players eleven to twelve years old will practice and play at the new, advanced-level field at the Steiner School at 35 West Plain Road in Great Barrington.

Rookie players five to seven years old practice and play on Wednesdays in Monterey, at Greene Park, from 4 to 5 p.m., once outdoor temps reach 60 degrees.

To sign up, contact Jim Edelman at cljvedelman@aol.com or call Steve Graves at 757-269-4632.

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Town Office Elections

Elected town offices to be filled in May are the following:

- Board of Appeals, 5 years
- Board of Assessors, 3 years
- Board of Health, 3 years
- Cemetery Comm., 3 years
- Constable, 3 years
- Finance Comm., 3 years
- Library Trustee, 3 years
- Library Trustee, 3 years
- Library Trustee, 1 year
- Moderator, 1 year
- Parks Comm., 3 years
- Parks Comm., 3 years
- Planning Board, 5 years
- Planning Board, 2 years
- Select Board, 3 years
- Tax Collector, 3 years
- Treasurer, 3 years
- Tree Warden, 1 year

Some positions are remainders of full terms. Some positions have incumbents who will be candidates for reelection.

To get on the ballot for any of these positions a candidate must be nominated by one of the party caucuses or gather at least twenty-five certifiable voters' signatures on a nomination paper filed with the town clerk.

Nomination papers can be picked up at the town clerk's office no later than March 20, and need to be returned by 5 p.m. on March 22 so they can be signed by the registrars. The last day to withdraw nomination papers is April 7. The annual town meeting is Saturday, May 7, 2016. Remember that the town election is on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at the Monterey Firehouse.

Republican Town Meetings March 10 and 19

The Republican Town Committee has met and is actively looking for candidates for the upcoming town elections in May. We will be holding a meeting on Thursday, March 10, at 4:30 p.m., in the church basement and again on Saturday, March 19, at 1 p.m., in the church basement as well. If you are interested in any of the positions up for election, please write a letter of intent, including information about yourself and explaining your interest in the position. Please give or send letters to Mark Makuc (PO Box 711), or email mjiminmonterey@yahoo.com before those meetings.

On Saturday, March 19, all registered Republicans are requested to attend a caucus for the purposes of nominating candidates for that local election. The committee will present all interested candidates to the Republicans to vote and decide whom to put on the ballot. Please come!

—Mark Makuc

Democratic Town Caucus March 23, at 7 p.m.

All registered Democrats in Monterey are invited to gather in the church basement on Wednesday, March 23, at 7 p.m., for a caucus to endorse candidates for town offices. Anyone interested in running should be at the caucus, if at all possible, but certainly should write a letter of interest that details experience and qualifications as well as passion, and send to either Barbara Swann (PO Box 356) or Muriel Lazzarini (PO Box 427).

—Muriel Lazzarini

Looking for a Town Reporter

The *Monterey News* needs a new town reporter.

Our monthly column, "The Town", leads each issue of the paper, and it goes to the very core of the *Monterey News* mission, which is to encourage conversation in the town. It is often the only reporting of what has transpired at the select board's meetings, aside from their minutes, which they approve before publication.

The role of the town reporter is strictly to attend the three or four select board meetings each month and then to write up what he or she witnessed. The meetings are typically held later on Monday afternoons.

To be the town reporter is rewarding in two ways. It is an opportunity to connect with more people in town and to learn how the town government is managed. It is also an important public service, bringing the select board's topics, discussions, and decisions to the readers.

This role does not call for an experienced, professional writer. It calls mostly for someone who has an interest in our civic affairs, has an abiding concern for Monterey, and enjoys a certain amount of writing. There are two separate editors who would "have your back" on the writing, so you would not be all on your own. The *News* is able to provide a monthly stipend for the job.

If you're curious about the position, please contact Stephen Moore, editor, either by email (MontereyNews9@gmail.com) or by phone (528-4007).

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P.O. Box 9 Carol Edelman, Candidate

I am running for the open seat on the Monterey Select Board, and ask for your consideration. My hope is that as a select board member, I can help keep Monterey a wonderful place to live for our wide range of residents, from young adults to retirees, full time life-long residents to visitors, while making progress and improvements as the town moves forward into the future.

A full-time Monterey resident since 1981, I worked in the private sector in New York, San Francisco, and the Berkshires for nearly twenty years in publishing, broadcasting, and business. A graduate of Westfield State, I taught elementary school for twenty-five years in northwest Connecticut, Southern Berkshire Regional, and Lenox public schools, retiring a couple of years ago. In addition to my professional background, I have volunteered in numerous town and regional roles, including health advisory committees of Southern Berkshire Regional School District and Lenox public schools, Morris School Council (Lenox), education advisory committee at the Bidwell House, and was a founding member of the Monterey Preservation Land Trust, Committee for the Monterey Fire Company, spearheaded development of the Monterey town playground, and was a Monterey Library trustee for many years. I am currently a therapy dog team partner with the Good

Dog Foundation, and a tour guide and special events volunteer with the Berkshire Botanical Garden.

Back in 1981, I came to Monterey as a young single woman. In the ensuing years, I married my husband, Jim Edelman, raised a beautiful family, was a beach and baseball mom, struggled to pay the bills, commuted to work, made many dear friends, tended to elderly relatives, grew a lot of vegetables, and I feel absolutely fortunate to have made a life here. While I'd love to keep Monterey just as perfect as it has been for me, I recognize that we also need to make adjustments and changes to meet the challenges facing our town in order to maintain the quality of life we share. The natural environment, abundant recreational and educational opportunities, safety and security, community support, and services will not continue without careful management and maximization of our resources and hard-earned tax dollars. With a cooperative, optimistic, diligent select board, and with the help of other town agencies and individuals, we can guide Monterey toward a future as a great place for us and future residents.

I have the time, energy, experience, skills, vision, and love of Monterey to do a fine job representing your interests on the select board. Please vote for me on town election day, Tuesday, May 10.

Looking forward,

—Carol Lewis Edelman
cljvedelman@aol.com.

Monterey "Wanted" Board A Better Way to Transfer

Beth Parks now has a community "wanted" bulletin board at the Swap Shop.

Come post your wanted item(s) on the board, which is located on the door of the Swap Shop. Whether your item is large or small, maybe the next person coming to the transfer station will have just what you're looking for. Or, perhaps you have an item that needs a new home but is too large for the Swap Shop, or you need to have it picked up—post that also.

Please, free items only.

—Dave Gilmore and Ben Pac

(Note: I have been waiting for months now for someone to write a letter commenting on how Dave and Ben have changed the transfer station experience. They are right out there, all the time, helping with unloading, a smile, and a very friendly attitude. Thank you to them, and to the select board for realizing the change they would bring. —Editor)

Transfer Station Winter Hours

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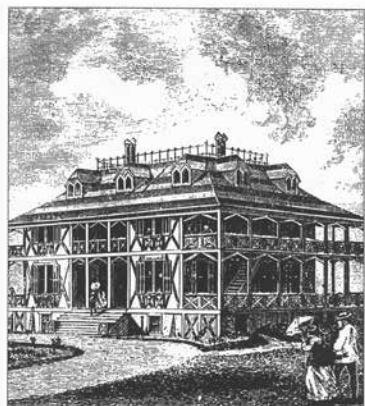
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See page 10 for more info.

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Special Town Meeting February 18

A special town meeting was held on Thursday, February 18, beginning at 7 p.m., with town moderator Mark Makuc presiding. There were several significant issues to consider including five articles that dealt with transitioning the positions of town clerk, tax collector, and treasurer from elected to appointed. Article Six was a request for a transfer of money to the parks commission. The voters also discussed and voted on a proposal to hire a grant writer, and one to request the select board to petition the legislature to establish a preservation tax district around Lake Garfield.

Elected vs. Appointed.

Article 1 began the discussion, with a request to change the position of tax collector from elected to appointed. However, almost from the beginning, the discussion focused on the larger issues of town government management, diminishment of local democracy, and the need, brought on by increasingly complex requirements of all the town positions, to consider hiring a part-time town administrator.

The select board tried to make the case that each of these jobs has become more demanding and more technical. The point was repeatedly made that elected officials must be residents, which limits the number of people with the time and the skills who could fill these jobs. Select board members

Scott Jenssen and Kenn Basler both made the point that we cannot afford on-the-job training. The time spent learning the job is potentially a loss to the town. Jenssen was emphatic on a few points. "I think everyone who has worked in town hall while I've been in office had awesome intentions. I am for this change for the potential future of this town. If you don't have the ability, you don't belong in the job."

Basler also said that Monterey would not be alone by moving to an appointed treasurer. He said that 75% of Massachusetts towns have appointed treasurers, and the Department of Revenue (DOR) is pushing the remaining towns to follow suit.

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Select board member Steven Weisz listed three reasons. The first was qualifications. He said that the state requirements for Monterey are exactly the same as for Boston. The second was hours. The select board cannot mandate hours for elected officials, and access to office holders has been an issue in the past. The third concerned shared services. Weisz said that many of the towns in Berkshire county are looking for ways to share services. He made the point that an experienced, skilled treasurer would want to be working full-time, and Monterey cannot afford a full time person. But the town could perhaps share such a person with one or two other towns. This would permit a highly skilled person to have full time employment, and bring with them the experience and perspective that would come from doing the same job in other towns.

All three board members made it clear that this was not a change due to individuals, but rather the larger picture of managing a four-million dollar company. They, and other people at the meeting, also emphasized the growing need for the town to hire a town administrator for the same reasons.

Near the end of the discussion, Steve Pullen stood up and made a suggestion. He felt strongly about not losing the ability to vote for people in these offices. However, he said that does not mean that those people must do the daily work. An elected treasurer could set policy, make key decisions, and supervise someone who does the work. The treasurer's job could come with a stipend, leaving the bulk of the treasurer's budget to be used to hire a technical person.

A motion was made and seconded to close discussion, which passed, and a voice vote was taken. It was not sufficiently clear to moderator Makuc, so he asked for a count. Article 1 failed by a vote of 28 to 39.

For the next two articles which concerned shifting the town clerk and the treasurer to appointed positions, it was clear that the previous discussion had basically covered all three questions, so there were motions to vote. Both articles two and three failed on voice votes.

The next two articles which proposed changing terms of office for tax collector and treasurer were moved to be continued indefinitely (postponed), and both of these postponements passed with voice votes.

Funds for Parks Commission

Article 6 proposed a transfer of \$5,549 from free cash to the parks commission. Kelly Tryon, chair of the parks commission, asked for a reduction of the request to \$4,100. She explained that this was because the town had contracted with Berkshire South Community Center to provide lifeguarding service. Since some of this service begins during the current fiscal year, money is needed to pay for this. For a fuller explanation, see page 9.

Town Grant Writer

Article 7 asked the town to establish the position of a grant writer. The article stipulated the tasks and responsibilities of this role, which were not the subject of any discussion. It also stipulated how the grant writer was to be compensated through the awarding of successful grants.

Two amendments were made and ac-

Daylight Savings Time
"Spring Ahead"
Sunday, March 13, at 2 a.m.

cepted by the voters. One was to change the term from "a term of one year" to "a term of up to two years." Barbara Swann explained that since grant cycles can take more than one fiscal year for applications, awards, and receipt of grant money, a longer term made sense.

The second amendment was prompted by a discussion of the terms of compensation. The original article would have rewarded the grant writer 10% of grants up to \$100,000, and 5% of grants over \$100,000. This was amended to read, "and 5% for any additional amount over \$100,000."

Some voters questioned why this position even needed to come to a vote. They also questioned about the legality and practicality of the grant writer being compensated this way. It was made clear that the DOR required a vote on establishing a grant writer position, and that all grants applied for had to have, as part of the application, a statement of the grant writer's portion of the grant as compensation.

>

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Lake Garfield Tax District

Once Article 8 had been read, Michael Germain, representing the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) stood up to speak. He said that managing the lake and keeping it healthy has become more difficult. The FLG feels there is a need for a five-year plan of action, which requires a steady source of income. Establishing a tax district around the lake would provide this income. He said that this would have no effect on regulatory authority, as any proposed actions would have to have the conservation commission's approval. There would be no financial impact on any of the other tax payers in town. He reiterated several times that establishing the tax district is solely for obtaining money, and not about any specific management policies.

Jon Sylbert spoke to the perception by some in town that there is a divide in interest in the lake between the lakefront people and the rest of the town. He feels that there is a public relations issue, much of which stems from the lack of true public access to the lake. Contrasted with the boat launch at Lake Buel, which is forty-feet wide and has adequate parking, the boating access to Lake Garfield is very constricted. Even though state funds built the boat ramp at Lake Garfield, the state says there is no public access because the ramp does not meet standards. Someone raised the point that there is access, and if someone wants to put a large boat onto the lake, they only need to call the police to help with traffic control

during the launching. Sylbert responded that if someone has to call the police to put in a boat, then that it is not genuine public access.

Both Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker, who have property at the east end of the lake, spoke separately as biologists and naturalists. They contend that a lake that has thriving plant populations is a living lake and is part of the complex web of the ecology of the area. Baker said that there was a perception that some lake people would like the lake to be a "swimming pool," which is not a natural condition for any lake.

Jerrold Raab spoke with concern about having a certain group organized for the purpose of managing a publicly-owned body of water, with limited input from the town or other users of the lake. He also mentioned that if the state has approved certain methods or chemicals for use in the lake, it would be very hard for the conservation commission to deny this group approval of applying chemicals in Lake Garfield. Several people said that the conservation commission can deny this use regardless of the state's position.

Pam Johnson spoke about Stevens Lake and the monitoring that happens there. She made an additional point that having an association, which requires members to pay, is an excellent way of getting more people to participate in the management of the lake, and to appreciate the impacts of the choices they make on their own properties.

After lengthy discussion, a motion

was made to call the question. A voice vote was taken. Moderator Makuc, while seemingly prepared to announce approval, said, "This is a big issue. I am going to ask for a count." The article passed by 39 to 29.

For more information on the tax district and its governance, see page 13.

Article 9

This was a procedural issue addressing the potential change from elected to appointed officials. The state requires that this change be the result of two votes, one of which must be at the annual town meeting. So Article 9 proposed a vote at the annual town meeting (Tuesday, May 10, at 12 p.m.) on each of the three of the positions to transition from elected to appointed. Since the early articles on this topic failed, a motion was made to continue (postpone), and passed by voice vote.

—Stephen Moore

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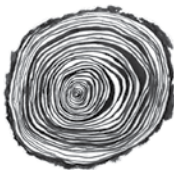
Town Beach Lifeguards Berkshire South to Help

The Monterey Parks Commission feels it is in the best interest of the town to contract Berkshire South to manage the lifeguard program. Berkshire South will recruit, hire, orient, schedule, and supervise all lifeguards, provide preseason and in-service training, provide certificates of insurance and liability, as well as come with the expertise and knowledge to implement a sound lifeguard/beach season. Berkshire South will help the parks commission develop an emergency action plan and standard operating procedures relevant to the needs of Lake Garfield. Berkshire South will also remain in constant communication with the parks commission to maintain an effective and efficient program.

— Kelly Tryon
Chair, Parks Commission

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P.O. Box 9 Elected, Hired, or Both?

I am writing about the February 18 special town meeting. Specifically, I want to address the three articles that proposed changing our tax collector, town clerk, and treasurer from elected positions, as they are at present, to appointed positions. This means that the positions would be filled by the select board hiring the individuals at their discretion.

Even before attending the meeting, I was well aware that town government is getting more complex, and that these positions now require more specialized skills and training. In addition, we are an aging town with a smaller group of people to draw upon for candidates. Because of this, bringing in outside people makes sense, as a practical matter. But it does our democracy no good. Changing these positions from elected to appointed would put governing power in the hands of just a few people (our select board), rather than all of us here in town who choose to vote. This is not a healthy direction for our town democracy to go.

In my twenty-five-plus years as tree warden in Monterey, I was honored to be elected by the townspeople. My work was full of tasks that required me to hire professionals. The town's highway depart-

ment would help with their large trucks and loaders. The power company would take down trees that affected their wires, and I hired several tree removal companies to take down and prune trees that did not affect the power lines. The select board and finance committee would work with me on my yearly budgets, which included the amount of money I would request for my compensation to manage the department. The townspeople would then vote at town meeting, yay or nay. I suggest that this model be applied to these three positions as well. The tax collector, town clerk, and treasurer could manage their departments, hiring other professionals as necessary, and be compensated appropriately for managing and overseeing the work of their departments.

As tree warden, I was motivated to serve the entire town, and to meet the needs of all of the townspeople, not just the wishes of a few select board members. I knew that if I fell short, at the next election my position could be filled by someone else. Isn't this how a democracy is supposed to work? I would never support a change of government that lessens the power of people. At the special town meeting, the townspeople expressed this loud and clear, and I was happy to be a part of it.

— Roger Tryon



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Comm. Potluck March 16 350Mass—Groundswell Rising

Monterevians—what was the problem with the February Potluck? Was it the subject matter? Are we all so afraid of talking about planning for dying and death? Did everyone just forget? Do I need to put together an email reminder list? It is always the third Wednesday of the month from October through May. To whine a little, it is a lot of work to set up the tables, and I have been embarrassed before when we had ten, twelve or fifteen people, but three? Just Wendy Germain, and Shirley and Storrs Olds (It was Shirley's ninety-first birthday and this was how she chose to celebrate it!)

Deborah Alecson led a very intense and personal discussion about talking about our wishes surrounding end-of-life issues. She is willing to come back another time, if this is what we want. So call me and tell me what you want, 528-9213.

For the March potluck, we have an exciting documentary film, *Groundswell Rising*, on the dangers of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas, and the movement to fight it. The film is sponsored by 350Mass Berkshires, a volunteer local climate change action organization. In this film, we will see how the fracking industry, rich with political connections, managed to slip into a position of almost untouchable power and how at-risk communities have come together to fight back. Michael Feldstein, a Great Barrington resident and co-coordinator of 350Mass, will lead a discussion after the film.

The next Monterey community potluck dinner will be held in the fellowship hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse at 6 p.m., on Wednesday, March 16. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce



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2016 Project 351 Ambassador Elisabeth Enoch

Project 351 is a community service project established by Governor Deval Patrick promoting service by young adults in their communities. Each year, one responsible, strong, eighth-grade leader from each of the 351 towns in the state of Massachusetts is chosen to participate. Selected in October of the previous year, these students travel to the capital city of Boston in January as ambassadors representing their towns. This is known as Launch Day, a day when all of the ambassadors gather at the state house to celebrate the impact of the heroic Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other such leaders.

The ambassadors are separated into different groups, each one named after an inspirational leader from around the world. Then, along with a leader for the group, they head out to a location to do good for many people in Boston. This includes traveling to many homeless shelters; packing bags of toiletries, food and snacks; making pies and murals, and other services. Finally, all the ambassadors gather at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library to talk about service and hope. To close the night, everyone gathers to celebrate the day with a party before each person boards the busses heading home.

It is a great privilege to be the 2016 ambassador for the Town of Monterey. I was a member of the Rosa Parks group and our group was one of the many that served at the Pine Street Inn, a Boston homeless shelter. One of my most treasured memories is of a group of local first-grader students who performed for us at the state house. They spoke from memory about Dr. King's life and then recited parts of his "I Have a Dream" speech. They spoke with such conviction, emotion, and belief that it changed my heart.

At the end of the day, I remember everyone in my group, even some people outside of my group, hugging me before I left. It was the most bittersweet moment in my life. It almost seemed like nothing else mattered or that time stopped, I still can't tell. Looking back now, I realize how surprised I was working at the Pine Street Inn. Not a single person complained, and everywhere you looked, you heard compliments by the dozens. I knew none of the people in that room, but I felt connected to everyone through the friendliness and kindness. It has changed the way I look at helping others, and the way I look at the world. This was an amazing opportunity that I wish every eighth grader had.

—Elisabeth Enoch
Mt. Everett High School

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From the Meetinghouse. The Soil Anchors the Crocuses

Can we already be close to crocus time? Or, given the erratic weather in February, are they already with us? Each year, March into April, I look for their arrival. Do you do that, too? Day after day I scan the spots where they've popped into bloom in the past as if I'm on a treasure hunt. And, of course, I am. They're hallmarks of hope, flags of possibility, reminders that winter is impermanent.

When the scattered clusters of purple, yellow, or white blooms peek into view, they infect me with a contagion of joy. It isn't until later that I remember I've overlooked my gratitude for the earth, which anchors their roots. The soil deserves as much attention as the blossoms dancing in the air, but the flowers are fragile, flashy, short-lived. The soil's always there. Underfoot. Dependable. Covered over with snow, or crocuses, or grasses, shrubs, and trees. It's an easy mistake, to take what's always there for granted.

I found out a few weeks ago that the last of "The Women of 1913" died on December 6, at the age of 102. Other



It's a kind of ritual around here. Each year we celebrate the crocuses.

women born that year are still with us, but she was the last of a specific group, which included my mom and the mothers of three of my friends. Like the soil anchoring the crocuses in the photo above, they were the ground in which each of us had our roots. The phrase "The Women of 1913" doesn't do them justice.

We used to smile and say they were a force of nature. I think of them now like a pod of dolphins, a cache of diamonds, a cluster of crocuses. Like their daughters, each one of them was unique and, as we now realize in fullness, passing through.

As we all are. May we all journey well.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Council on Aging Upcoming Activities

Balance, strength, and mobility training will start at town hall on Monday, March 14, from 1 to 2:15 p.m., for five, weeks thru April 11. Elaine Mack, a licensed massage therapist and certified personal trainer, will lead this. Only ten people can be accommodated because of space. If you are interested, please call Kay Purcell at 528-9151 to register. The cost is \$25 for five sessions. Make checks payable to Monterey Council on Aging, and send to PO Box 308 before the first class begins.

The bridge and pitch card players are enjoying their games. Please join them at town hall, Tuesdays, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Additional games and players are welcome.

Wii Sports games need a host for two hours a week. Please call 528-9151 if you can give your time. Thank you.

—Kay Purcell



Youth Summer Cultural Grants March 15 Deadline

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has set March 15 as the deadline for applications to the Simple Gifts Fund, a fund of the foundation. The fund awards grants of \$200 to \$800 to young people ages thirteen to twenty-one for participation in cultural or creative summer programs, such as theater internships, music and art camps, or language immersion programs.

The Simple Gifts Fund was established in honor of Bill Crofut by his family. Bill was a beloved local folksinger who died in 1999. He had a deep understanding of and empathy for the dreams and aspirations of young people. He wanted to do something that could help them achieve their goals and knew that even small amounts of money could help them purchase an instrument, study dance, or participate in a summer program. He loved to foster those small steps to further great passions.

Applications and guidelines are available online at BerkshireTaconic.org/SearchGrants.



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McLaughlin-Wilson, Other Berkshire Scholarships Applications Due April 1

Thirty-one scholarship funds for students in Berkshire County managed by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF) are accepting applications by April 1. Some scholarships are specifically available to students in our immediate area.

Of special concern to Monterey students is the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund. Students who have lived in Monterey for the last two years of high school are eligible for scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500, which may include awards over multiple years. Merit is the primary criterion.

The majority of BTCF's scholarships accept one Common Application with a few exceptions where noted. Applications and guidelines for all scholarships are available online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/SearchScholarships. Please note the new deadline of April 1.



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Are You Ready?

I often think about how I would support my family and our community during a state of emergency. This concern led me to have a discussion about this important topic with our dedicated select board. It was a very informative meeting for me. It helped me to create an action plan for myself and other Monterey residents to prepare for future emergencies. The select board suggested I meet with the police chief, Gareth Backhaus, fire chief Shawn Tryon, and Kay Purcell of the Council on Aging. Information from these meeting will be included in future articles in the *Monterey News*.

I concluded that the first step families can take to prepare for emergencies is to create an emergency kit, suggested by the state office of public safety and security. The state website has excellent advice for preparing for emergencies. Go to mass.gov/mema and search for "Be Prepared." From the state website: "Disasters can happen anywhere and at any time. Make sure you and your family are ready. By taking certain necessary steps, residents of Massachusetts can help build resilient communities, reduce injuries and deaths, and minimize the economic impact of disasters and other types of emergencies."

At a minimum your kit should include:

- Food: At least a three-day supply of non-perishable foods that do not need cooking (ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables, or juices, protein or granola bars, cereal, peanut butter,

dried fruit, nuts, crackers, baby food, comfort foods)

- Water: Bottled water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days), water purification tablets
- Tools and Supplies: Manual can opener, radio (battery-powered or hand crank), flashlight or lantern, extra batteries, cell phone with charger, wrenches, pliers, and other basic tools
- Personal Items: Prescription medications (two-week supply), personal hygiene items, eyeglasses, contact lenses, dentures, extra batteries or supplies for medical equipment, change of clothes, sturdy shoes
- Pets: Collar, leash, harness, crate, food, bowls, current photo, license and medical information
- Documents: Insurance policies, bank account records, safe deposit box and house keys, identification cards (IDs), medical information, and other copies of important documents.
- Money: Extra cash and traveler's checks (ATMs may not work during a power outage)
- Other Items: First-aid kit, emergency whistle, waterproof matches/lighter, local area maps, diapers, wipes, formula, and baby food and supplies (if needed)

Please take some time to go over this list and help your family prepare. I do believe if Monterey were to experience an emergency our community would join together and support each other in a good way.

—(Leonard) Michael Johnson



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Lake Garfield Tax District

The Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) would like the town to be aware of the following points regarding the Lake Garfield preservation tax district.

Next Steps

- The recent vote authorizes the select board to forward the act to our representatives in Boston to be voted on, and then signed by the governor.
- The last step to establishing the district will be a meeting of at least half of the district's potential members (a quorum) and a vote to establish the district by a two-thirds majority.

Assessments and Tax

- The Lake Garfield preservation district (LGPD), will have no authority other than to make assessments on the members.
- The assessments are based on the Town of Monterey assessors property values used for Monterey taxes.
- The district's assessments are subject to review and approval by the Monterey assessor and the state DOR.
- The district will have its own assessor to receive the town assessment values. They will also have their own tax collector and a treasurer, separate from the town's office holders.
- Lake Buel's current assessment is \$0.68/\$1,000 property value per year
- We anticipate \$0.40/\$1,000 property value per year for the Lake Garfield district for the first year.



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- If we are successful with our plans for the health of the lake and we get grants that we have applied for, we anticipate the assessments to decrease in the future.

LGPD Governance

- The prudential board will be comprised of six members of the district, one representative from the select board, and one non-voting member from the town-at-large appointed by the select board.
- The members of the district will vote each year on the assessments and to elect the prudential board members.
- Any interventions on the lake are subject to approval by the Conservation Commission and the state fish and wildlife division.
- All of the above processes work the same as for Lake Buel, which has had this type of district for years.

FLG Objectives

- The Friends of Lake Garfield does have some funds and has received approvals over the years from the Conservation Commission for various interventions on the lake, so having the lake district does not change anything in terms of how lake management is done, only provides a fairer way to collect funds to keep the lake healthy.
- The FLG has always had, as its priority, the health of the lake and an inclusive approach with the town. The health of the lake means protecting the fish, other wildlife, and na-

tive plants (weeds) in the lake, and having a lake environment that is good for these species. Controlling non-native invasive species meets those goals. Invasive species will out populate the native plant species and create an unhealthy environment for the fish and other wildlife.

- The FLG believes that the lake is a public resource for everyone and, in particular, the residents of Monterey. We are committed to open access to the lake. We realize that the lake is classified as a great pond and is the property of the state. The rules on the lake are governed by state regulations. The enforcement of those regulations locally is by the harbor master, who is the Monterey police chief.

—Michael Germain

Friends of Lake Garfield



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Knox Gallery in March

Our next exhibition, *Reworded: Paintings by Andrew Zdziarski*, opens Friday, March 11, with a reception the next evening, Saturday, March 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Zdziarski's abstract paintings are psychological in nature and explore dreams, memories, notions, and anxieties as a source of freedom and self-discovery. The artist states that his vividly colored canvases capture inner landscapes. Their graffiti-like words, scratches, and scrawls are painted in a raw manner and evoke his authentic representation of a moment. His process is impulsive. He paints only on recycled and found materials.

The artist studied at Marist College, the Academy of Art, University San Francisco, and privately. He lives in Southfield with his wife and their two children. Please visit his website at andrewzdzarski.com.

Reworded: Paintings by Andrew Zdziarski, will be on view through April 23. All exhibits can be viewed during library hours.

We are pleased to announce that the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Councils have awarded us a grant, and an increased allocation, for 2016 so that we are able to extend and increase the number of our artists talks series. Thank you to the cultural councils.

Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795. [Facebook.com/Knox Gallery](https://www.facebook.com/KnoxGallery). @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates



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Monterey Library Notes

Don't forget to put the Monterey egg hunt on your calendar for Sunday, March 27, at 1 p.m., at the library. We meet on the church steps. Even though we put out plenty of eggs, you don't want to be late. The children who show up are pretty fast, and they seem to find all the bunny's hiding spots.

You'll notice the library property has been surveyed in preparation for our design team. We've already met with them and the architects have measured up what we have and are hard at work trying to figure out how to make our library more accessible and safe for everyone. We'll be meeting quite a lot with them over the next six months.

Don't forget to come in and check out the new exhibit in the Knox Gallery and listen to the storytelling on Saturday, March 19, at 7 p.m.

—Mark Makuc

Library Director

MontereyMassLibrary.org

Storytelling at the Library Saturday, March, 19, 7 p.m.

A Monterey tradition has begun—Saturday nights at the library—recording stories about our town. So far we have collected many hours of wonderful tales documenting our collective history. Please join family, friends, and neighbors for a wonderful evening. Spend some time telling your stories, or sit and listen to some history of Monterey you might not know.

The next session will be on Saturday, March 19, at the Monterey library, for an enchanting evening of storytelling beginning at 7 p.m. Leading the evening will be Peter Murkett, editor of the book, *Monterey: A Local History*, which was published in 1997 for the town's Sesqui-centennial Anniversary (1847–1997).

There will be copies of the book for sale for \$20, with \$10 going to the library. It is a good idea to sign up at the library if you would like time to tell your story.

Look forward to seeing you on Saturday at the library.

—Wendy Germain

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Look you the blue teeth of flame
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the innocence of intention
the sum of so many would-be summers
of greening gentleness
who consumes the dry, the cold
of autumn's blight?

How parlous is our loving still
how brief, how brief our fruiting
yet in our dismemberment, our winter,
and in our falling into embers
what a giving, what a light!

—A. O. Howell
January, 1994

like paintbrushes put out to dry,
the leafless trees stand
rooted but reaching
waiting for next season's color.

—Karen Franchot
January, 1994

The *Monterey News* is interested in submissions of all
types of writing from writers of any age.

The Litter Speaks

Beside our river, snow is melting

spring stretches through
Corona cans and Camel packs.

Burger King bags snatch the wind
circling with wrappers,

and Monster Cans lean against
the rusting Red Bull.

We can not find any
cans of beans,
carrots, or
apple cores—

there were no bags of quinoa,
tofu cartons,
or bottles of kefir.

Not even a broccoli stem.

The harm we ingest—
a short fall,
from mouth
to ground.

—Melissa Hamilton

Seeds, and the Three Life-giving Sisters of the Mahicans

For the 1970s back-to-the-land homesteader, winter may look like the off-season. But if you live close to the land, there is never an off season, thank goodness: firewood, repairs, books, odd jobs for cash income, and stepping back from the garden into the kitchen. We shovel snow off the root cellar, keep an eye on the winter squashes, slice apples to dry on racks up by the ceiling. We tap the sugar maples, glad to get outside and up close with the changing trees. Pretty soon we'll be raking off mulch, hoeing, digging, down on our knees with seeds. But first, we have to make a plan.

Every year the garden plan is different, thanks to what someone said about the corn they grew or how our yellow onions didn't keep so well this time around. Then there is the kitchen experience, and the table. Now that our resident nuclear family is smaller and the number of people who really love pickles is down to two instead of five, do we need to make more this year at all? There are still jars and jars down on the shelf in the house cellar. And if change in the family is not confusing enough, how about change in the seed catalogues? One that we have used since the beginning has now got thirteen pages of designer lettuce. With more than seventy kinds of lettuce on offer, how hard can it be to find three I really want? Hah! Am I not going to read up on a few new ones and try them out? Pretty soon I don't want any lettuce at all.

There will be other things to eat and lettuce is not one of our storage crops. Maybe I should take a break from it altogether and focus on what counts.



What might that be? Number one for us is beans, and I don't just mean the sweet green ones that go snap and can be munched in the garden on a summer day. We are talking storage and protein here, also the sheer handsome glory of a dry bean, in shape and color. In shine. Even in music. I have a beanbag given to me by one of the kids, who sewed it years back in childhood, having carefully chosen a mix of beans for how they sound together! I shake that bag for bean music from time to time. It has been on my desk all these years.

Besides beans, there is corn. Once again I mean the dry storage variety. We eat a little "green corn" from the patch, early on when the sugar is up, but this heavy feeding grain is headed for cornmeal

and for whole kernel hominy, or what we call "nixta." This is dry corn soaked and cooked in water with wood ashes, to make a chewy whole hominy, rich in B vitamins and available protein. It is also delicious, with a masa hariña taste that might remind you of corn chips.

Those are two of the sisters, corn and beans. The third one is squash, and we put in a big patch of it so it has room to vine around and get sun on its great big leaves. Before the first frost, we cut off the squashes and bring them in to sit a while into the fall and winter. Then it is baking, steaming, or chopping up for curries, and along the way we also make thin cooked slices and put them up on the ceiling racks to dry. They come out like fruit leather in a few days. Squash leather, sweet and tasty. It will keep a long time in big jars or cans so the mice don't get into it.

Now that I have described the "three life-giving sisters," of the Mahican Indians, I wonder why I take so long over the plan, the seed order. Isn't it clear what to do here? I save seed from the beans and corn every year so I don't even have to order any. I could do the same with winter squash if I would just grow one type so it wouldn't cross and mix up its characteristics. I'd choose buttercup, our favorite for more than forty years.

Even with the simple three-sister plan, I'd be in trouble with the beans. This year my plan has nine different kinds of bush beans and six of pole beans. That is just greedy! For the pole beans there is a

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reckoning at trellis-building time, but I get out the short stepladder, the sapling poles, and my growing collection of bike wheels. This is hillside bean architecture. There is string involved, but in a strategic way, now that I've learned mice like to scurry up the tripods and help themselves to string fiber for nest material. They are not the only ones. Cedar waxwings come along late in the season and start yanking at the knots on the tomato trellises. I've had to revise these knots as some of the plants have come crashing down, their tomatoes rolling on down the hill.

Tomatoes are the tropical fruits we just have to have. We don't try to dry them on the ceiling racks because they are so wet. They go in rows and rows of canning jars down in the house cellar, ready to make soup or stew all winter with the three sisters and some root crops, some onions. Some cayenne, some garlic.

This is early spring, the sun up earlier and staying longer. Chickadees are chasing each other around in the beaked hazelnuts, owls making a romantic racket. Mother bears are waking up, introducing their eager cubs to the world outside, and we folks are sitting at the kitchen table counting seeds, dreaming seed dreams. The three sisters have been giving us life in the kitchen all winter. Soon we will pass it back to them. We'll be outside, kneeling in the dirt.

—Bonner McAllester



Kelly Tryon

In the photo: Emma Spitz of Sheffield, Caroline Haiss of New Marlborough, Nicholas Henderson of Lee, and Shira Sawyer on Monterey.

Skating Party Success

On February 15, more than fifty people took to the ice for the parks commission's annual Presidents Day skating party. Turn-out this year was great as kids and parents from all over south county came together to enjoy free donuts, hot chocolate, hotdogs, and live music from DJ Drew. Emma Spitz of Sheffield said, "This is the best party EVER! I love ice skating, hot chocolate, and donuts!" We encourage all of you to add this event to your calendar for next year and join us in another fun-filled skating party.

—Parks Commission

Hockey Rink Schedule

Youth hockey: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings from 7 to 9.

Adult hockey:

Tues. and Thurs. evenings from 7 to 9.
Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30.

Mt. Everett High School hockey team plays Sunday evenings from 7 to 9.

All other times are shared with figure skaters, families, and recreational skaters—so skate responsibly! Please shovel before you leave.

For updates—call Parks Dept. at 528-1443 x248 (voicemail), or

Facebook—Monterey MA Outdoor Skating Rink



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Bidwell House Museum Season Highlights

2016 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell, the first minister to your community. In 1716 no English lived in the Berkshires, and Adonijah was born in Hartford, Connecticut Colony. He was the youngest of four surviving children of Thomas and Prudence Scott Bidwell. What was life like for a young boy in the New England colonies? The Bidwell House Museum will explore Adonijah's story in his anniversary year in talks, newsletter articles, and events. Stay tuned.

But first it's time to mark your calendars: This year's opening celebration will take place on Sunday, May 29, at 3 p.m. with a concert and reception on the museum grounds. You are invited! The museum will open for the season on Monday, May 30, Memorial Day, welcoming you and all visitors from near and far for house tours.

Township No. 1 Day, the free community day of celebrating local history is planned for Saturday, July 2, from 1 to 4 p.m., with terrific programs and fun games. Start thinking about your entry in the baking contest. Have a craft or historic collection you would like to share? Please contact the museum at 528-6888 and we'll set up a table for you.

The summer garden party, highlight of the season and fundraiser for your history museum, will take place on Saturday, August 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. A volunteer committee has begun planning a fabulous 300th birthday bash for Adonijah. Can you help? Please

email Maggie Barkin at maggierobertsbar-kin@gmail.com, or Christine Goldfinger at Christine.Goldfinger@gmail.com, co-chairs. Both the planning and the event promise to be great fun!

The museum is looking forward to a great season—high school and college internships, history talks, and nature walks. New this year is a series of family-friendly workshops at the museum—natural dyes, basketry, herbal medicine, and shelter building are among the topics to be offered. Details, as well as the museum's full schedule of programs, will be announced next month.

In the meantime, you are invited to take advantage of the Bidwell trails for snowshoeing, nature watching, or tracking (if Mother Nature blesses us with more snow). The 192-acre property is maintained for you. Thank you for supporting your local history museum.

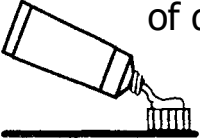
—Barbara Palmer

Executive Director

BidwellHouseMuseum.org

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All phases
of dentistry



528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

Bidwell House Museum High School Internships

Monterey's colonial history museum is offering high school students with an interest in history—particularly local Berkshire colonial history—the opportunity to become a Young History Scholar Intern this summer. The museum will offer eight to ten students the chance to get an inside view of the historic house and the operations of a non-profit.

High school interns spend two weeks at the museum. During the first week the intern learns about colonial Berkshire history, the Bidwell family, the house, the property and the collection, and how docents give tours. During week two each intern chooses a research topic, and begins to give tours of the museum as a junior docent.

Student interns learn to tell the story of the Bidwell House to visitors, and they get to meet people from all over the country, who are amazed at how smart and well educated Berkshire teens are. Students gain skills in research, public speaking, and working in a professional environment. It's really a great skill builder for future studies and careers.

Thanks in part to grants from the Monterey, Lenox, and Great Barrington cultural councils, the Tyringham Hop Brook Community Club, as well as private sponsors and friends of the museum, each high school intern receives a \$200 stipend for the two-week internship. The museum is also seeking a college student for an eight-week internship.

The internship application can be found on the museum's website. The deadline for applications is April 30, and applicants will be invited for an interview. Please call or email Barbara Palmer with any questions at 528-6888 or bidwell-house@gmail.com.

—Barbara Palmer

Executive Director



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Aerial Raptors

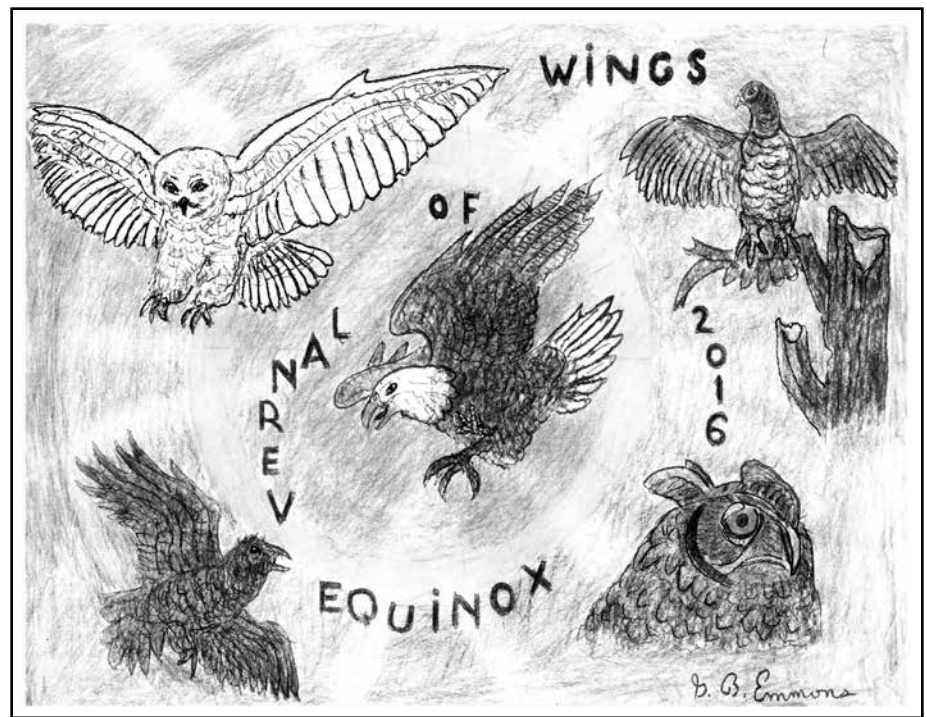
Late Winter – Early Spring

Birds attained the power of flight fifty million years ago and today are the most mobile of all terrestrial species, enjoyed annually by millions of bird watchers. However today, especially during their migrations, they are affected by global warming resulting in climate-altered polar habitats that are different from what they have adapted to. They are also limited by geographical barriers, as well as the behavior patterns of their species. We are now near the vernal equinox, as planet Earth slowly orbits and the face of the northern hemisphere receives more direct rays from the sun. The bald eagle will soon re-appear overhead to witness and welcome the ice-out along the edges of lakes, ponds, and streams, liberating their traditional aquatic food supply.

One of the reasons for the eagles' disappearance during the 1900s, in addition to the use of pesticides, was the deterioration of water quality, partly due to chemicals. This is a lesson to be confronted in weed control efforts for Lake Garfield. The eagle, once considered by Native Americans to be the supreme aerial lord of the heavens, and by proximity, a sun god, has only the great horned owl as a challenger in the raptor pecking order. The great horned owl is fiercely territorial around its nesting site. If the owl gets its talons on an eagle, the outcome can go either way. This is the only owl known to kill a human being (who was probably trying to rob its nest of eggs or young).

A great horned owl can turn its head 250 degrees, or three quarters of the way around, to keep watch behind it and in all directions. A wide-eyed, all-knowing stare deserves the literary reputation as wise old owl in contemporary children books, in Aesop's Fables, and in ancient Greek mythology.

The snowy owl is actually slightly larger, and is classified as a diurnal predator, with the advantage of being able to see to hunt on silent wings by day or night. It is very unlikely to see one in our area, which is a result from a migration irruption. They are more often seen along the shorelines of the arctic tundra, where they are tied to the habitats of the lemmings,



their principal prey. Their growling bark can be heard for more than a mile in the dead of night, earning them their role as a mystical creature in a Harry Potter movie.

Local turkey vultures are more commonly seen as a higher silhouette soaring on rising thermals and circling in gathering numbers along highways that produce roadkill. Amazingly, they can locate carrion from long distances by either sight or smell. They get their name from having a red head and neck with dark feathers like a wild turkey. Both the neck and head are bare to thwart any infectious disease from rotting carrion. You can often see turkey vultures, also called buzzards, congregate to roost along River Road, in the swath of dead tree limbs left by the tornado of 1995. This same stretch of dead trees offers them a place to stretch their wings to warm and dry themselves after a rainstorm, as I show in the top right-hand corner of my drawing.

Thanks to Edgar Allen Poe, the most notable literary avian figure is probably the common raven. Once classified as a raptor, it is now listed as a passerine, being more of a perching bird, seen roosting and nesting upon high ridges just below the tops of Dry Hill or Monument Mountain. They are also very territorial around their nesting sites, and their unmistakable call is a complaining dry guttural cough around visitors. Ravens being one of the few birds to acquire the use of tools, a bird watcher

approaching a nest may find herself pelted with stones. Also, like the common crow and human beings, they are known to be attracted to shiny objects such as shells and quartzite stones, which they gather in a treasure trove on the ground for their future enjoyment.

One of the most dramatic aerial performances is the courtship dance of ravens, very much like that of bald eagles. An eagle clasps talons with its mate at high altitude, and locked together they tumble downward, end-over-end, not letting go until they almost reach the ground. A pair of ravens is no less spectacular, whirling around like dervishes, two anthropomorphic dance partners performing on an aerial platform above a dance floor.

After the first dawn of spring, the equal hours of light and darkness shift to longer daytimes, sending the diurnal snowy owl back north. Then, with the return of nesting waterfowl, the chilled stillness of the pale blue sky of early spring may be broken by the shrill clarion of snow geese from high above, as welcome as the "Hallelujah Chorus" of Handel's immortal *Messiah*. Winter, ceding to planetary orchestration, takes flight on the wings of the vernal equinox.

This article, and my drawing, are dedicated to board members and the director of Bidwell House Museum.

—George B. Emmons

In Remembrance

William Jay McKee, 87

Bill McKee died on September 9, 2015, at the age of eighty-seven. He leaves a family grateful for his long life and wisdom. We will miss the sound of his voice reading Trollope and Dickens to us by the fireside. A long-time resident of Chevy Chase, MD, Bill is survived by his wife Ellen Landis McKee, sister Janet McKee, daughters Katie Mendelsohn and Ann Montgomery and their spouses, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Bill was born in Massachusetts and grew up at Gould Farm, a rehabilitation community in Monterey for adults with mental health challenges, which was directed for many years by his parents. A scholarship student at the Hotchkiss School and Harvard University, Bill worked for the CIA from 1953 to 1988 as a foreign affairs analyst in Washington DC, Germany, and England, focusing on the Europe of the Cold War. From 1973 to 1982, he was the chief reports officer for western Europe. During that time he particularly enjoyed his involvement with a local playreading group.

After retirement, he wrote a book, *Gould Farm: A Life of Sharing*, served on the board of directors at Gould Farm, volunteered with Bread for the City, and tutored ESL students. Bill was the epitome of a well-informed, well-educated, caring intellectual who looked for ways to make a difference in the lives of those both close to him and far away.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to Gould Farm, PO Box 157, Monterey, MA 01245-0157



From Sally Pullen

Children of Gould Farm staffers in summer of 1945. From left, Sally Ward Pullen, Janet McKee, Bill McKee (a long time board member himself) Mary Ellen Gardiner, Storrs Olds, Kitty Wallace, and Louise Ward Henry.

In Remembrance

Goria B. Hatch, 90

Gloria B. (Beaudry) Hatch, of Therese Avenue in Southbridge, Massachusetts, died Thursday, February 18. Her husband was the late Robert Hatch who died in 1986. She is survived by her children James A. Cabana of Union Grove, Wisconsin, and Johanna Beaudry of Denver, Colorado, and eight grandchildren. She also leaves two brothers, E. Roger Beaudry of Southbridge, and George Beaudry and his wife, Okla, of Venice, Florida. She shared a close relationship with her many nieces.

She was predeceased by her son Robert W. Cabana in 1981, her brother Ernest Beaudry, and two sisters Pauline Benoit and Jeannette Beaudry.

Gloria was born in Southbridge on January 1, 1926, and lived for many years in Southbridge and the Berkshires, returning to Southbridge in 1988. She graduated from Pittsfield Vocational School and became a licensed practical nurse. She worked as a nurse for many years at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield. She enjoyed baseball, especially the Red Sox, she was a seamstress, and she also was the recipient of an award for providing transportation to family, friends, or neighbors in need of a ride to their appointments. But most of all she enjoyed traveling and being a member of the Royal Travelers.

The funeral was held Monday, February 22, 2016, in Southbridge with a Mass that followed at Notre Dame Church. Burial will be at Corashire Cemetery in Monterey.

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Joe Baker “pretending” to paint the ceiling in the main room of the Monterey Community Center while hiding his real intention—to add a faux-mist primer finish to poodles Baci and Cookie.

Monterey Community Center News

We have been busy this month, working on the main floor walls and ceilings at the Wilson McLaughlin House, and by the time the *News* comes out we will have two coats of primer on all these surfaces. The work of additional volunteers is getting all this and more accomplished. Many thanks to Roy Carwile for his help installing sheetrock and to Gary Germain for excellent taping work.

This month has also seen us complete another grant application. With the help of Laraine Lippe, we have identified several possible sources of grant money to help complete the last or the renovation work. We are grateful to Wendy Germain for her videographic work as part of this recent application. We hope to have good news to report in just a few months from the two applications we have submitted, even as we continue to work on other grant possibilities.

We appreciate your support. Thanks to all of you who responded to our plea for help with the financing of the furnace installation—the system is working flawlessly, and it is wonderful to be keeping warm while we work inside, even during these recent cold days.

—Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House
ccmonterey.org

Wildlife Report, January and February 2016

We heard from Jody Soules back in January that there had been a bald eagle seen along Route 57, near Camp Half Moon. She also told us about some early returning smaller birds: a mockingbird, yellow-bellied sapsucker, and brown-headed cowbirds. Now, a month later, the “boy robins” are here in droves, feasting on fruits and berries on the bushes in the woods, swamps, and backyards.

Mickey Jervas called early in February to report a raccoon at her place, a “nice, great big fat guy.” Mickey also enjoyed a barred owl call-and-response chorus in her backyard.

Right at the end of January, Bob Carlson saw a large coyote, going along our sugarhouse road just off Hupi Road. Also, right about that time, a neighbor who lives through the woods from here had a long and moving eye-to-eye with an animal she took to be a grey wolf. She could be absolutely right about that. Our eastern coyotes are called “coy-wolves” by some biologists, and many of them have more than half their DNA from wolves.

In mid-February, Steve Snyder called with this month’s mink report. He saw one at Umpachene Falls. Earlier in the month, Kit Patten was over at Kripalu and saw a bluebird eating sumac berries. There was a nuthatch nearby.

In mid-February I have a note that Steve called to tell of a woodpecker. I don’t know which of my many Monterey Steve-buddies this was, but I do know it was a red-bellied woodpecker. In the smaller and indoor department, I am happy to report a



Ken Thomas - public domain

A red-bellied woodpecker. Their bellies are really a faded pink, but the name “red-headed woodpeckers” was already claimed.

long-bodied cellar spider this morning in our kitchen. We’d had so many and had enjoyed them right through Christmas, and then suddenly they were gone. As the careful duster of ceilings and windows, I sure noticed there were no more spiders and no more cobwebs. Had they run out of food? Eaten each other? I’ve read they will do this. If so, it stands to reason there could be one left. I saw her today.

Thanks for all your sightings and keep them coming. If you are a Steve, I’ll be sure to write down your last name next time!

—Bonner McAllester

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Gould Farm

Rhode Island Reds

David Markwood designed and built the chicken barn from rough sawn lumber in 2000 as one of the last projects he undertook during more than a decade of very creative and energetic work at Gould Farm. The building typically housed 250 mostly Rhode Island Red hybrid hens, along with a few roosters and an occasional castaway from the larger Monterey community, including the big multicolored turkey who, despite having been pardoned at Thanksgiving twelve years ago, went by the name of “Slice.”

Producing up to 50,000 eggs a year, the flock was a source of eggs for the Gould Farm kitchen, Harvest Barn bakery, and Roadside Store, as well as the wider community. Within this last year a very successful project of feeding our food wastes to the chickens resulted in a significant improvement in their diet and eliminated the problem of wild animals scavenging the compost pit.

Of special note was the interest and accessibility of the barn to all those, young and old, who enjoyed the experience of collecting eggs and witnessing the antics of these curious creatures. It is too early to know how we might recover from this loss, but few, if any of us, can imagine the farm without chickens.

—Steve Snyder



Gould Farm

On a better day.

Gould Farm’s Chicken Barn Fire Tuesday Evening, February 23

Gould Farm’s chicken barn was essentially destroyed by a very hot blaze. The fire company received the call at 6:30 p.m., and within minutes trucks from Monterey, Otis, and Tyringham were rolling through the village. Other area towns also responded.

Captain Del Martin said that it was an unexpectedly difficult fire to fight and required perhaps twice as much water as might be typically needed for a structure that size. The wind was driving the fire as well. Fortunately no one from any of the fire companies was hurt during the incident. The heaviest part of the fight lasted the better part of an hour and the company was out for most of the evening. Much of the mutual aid support was using area fire company tankers to ferry water from the Konkapot River below the Curtis Road bridge to the scene of the fire.

No other structures were damaged. Fortunately the wind was pushing away from the other farm structures. After the fire it was discovered that eight chickens had been in flight, and were spared!



Steve Snyder (from his iPad)

A pumper and crew from the Otis fire company.



Steve Snyder (from his iPad)

Roy Carwile running the pumps.

From Gould Farm

We are grateful for the amazing folks who came out to fight the blaze, and for the outpouring of kindness from the community. The circle of love and support that surrounds Gould Farm in this community enables us to be a place of healing and hope for many.

—Lisanne Finston
Executive Director

Thanks to Mutual Aid Towns

The Monterey Fire Company and Gould Farm would like to thank the fire departments of New Marlborough, Otis, Great Barrington, Sandisfield, and Tyringham for their help in fighting the fire at Gould Farm Tuesday night. This constitutes Monterey's entire fire mutual aid roster of neighboring towns. We depend on each other for help when needed.



Steve Snyder (from his iPad)

Monterey's assistant fire chief, Chris Tryon.



Steve Snyder (from his iPad)

Below: The next morning showed the damage.



Steve Snyder (from his iPad)

Above: Near the end of the fight.



Stephen Moore



Gould Farm

Not to worry... we'll be seeing you again soon.

Game Times

During the first year or two of our marriage, my wife indulged me (even as she regarded my preoccupation with sports as largely time wasted). Not knowing much of anything about sports, she left me alone when I headed off to watch a game. She had little sense of just how long I'd be "away." In time, she learned. Whether it was baseball, football, basketball, hockey, tennis, etc., I would be gone for hours. That would not stand. I was made to understand that no longer could I count on disappearing for such extended periods of time. Such departures would now become subject to negotiation, with my "needs" competing with her "plans", which all too often required my participation. The luxury of endless undisturbed viewing became little more than a fond memory.

I now had to alert her in advance about my game plans (which in all fairness she would, at times, try to work around). When, she would ask, is the game scheduled to start? How long will it last? Did I really need to tune in right from the beginning of the broadcast (a question especially pertinent once she understood that pre-game programming had become essential to the overall experience)? Starting times I knew, but who could predict when it would be over? Best be evasive here because, one, I didn't know; and,

two, declaring that it would be many hours seemed needlessly provocative. I tried appeasement—were the game to become hopelessly one-sided, I'd not stay to the bitter end. That, I assumed, represented a major concession on my part. Except she discovered that most games remained close and that my definition of a "runaway" was unduly restrictive.

So, what evolved has been an ongoing cat-and-mouse game between the two of us. Under this new regime I was obliged to provide periodic updates regarding the progress of the game, plus projected end times. Initially I enjoyed the upper hand. Whenever asked about time remaining, I'd "low ball" it. For a time that worked because it made it seem as if the game was in its final stages. But eventually she caught on. Minutes left in the game did not, she recognized, signify how much time actually would elapse before play finally concluded (think endless commercial breaks and repeated timeouts). She wasn't sure why that was but she became wise to the fact that whatever number I offered needed to be multiplied several times over before I'd be shutting off the TV. If I declared "three minutes," she knew that translated into twelve to fifteen. For example, if I declared it was the "fourth quarter, she recognized that plenty of time was left. Trying to convince her otherwise was futile; she had come to know the ropes.

What does she most dread? You guessed it—overtime or, in baseball, extra innings. When this happens it upsets all her calculations. Plus, she realizes that I'm not about to pick up and leave. "This game can go on forever," she will often mutter.

At such times I am sympathetic—I understand why she's upset. She'd already counted on my availability. Now her plans have been set back. Did I mistreat her? Am I being unfair and unreasonably selfish?

And so once in a while I will turn off the TV at this point, allow them to finish the game without me. Peace and harmony come at a price, one I'm willing, on occasion, to pay.

Fortunately the Super Bowl enjoys such an exalted place in our culture that none of what I've just said will apply on that Sunday. It's free sailing for me, from pre-game buildup to post-game commentary (unless the game becomes so one-sided that I shut it off—and suggest we go out for dinner).

—Richard Skolnik



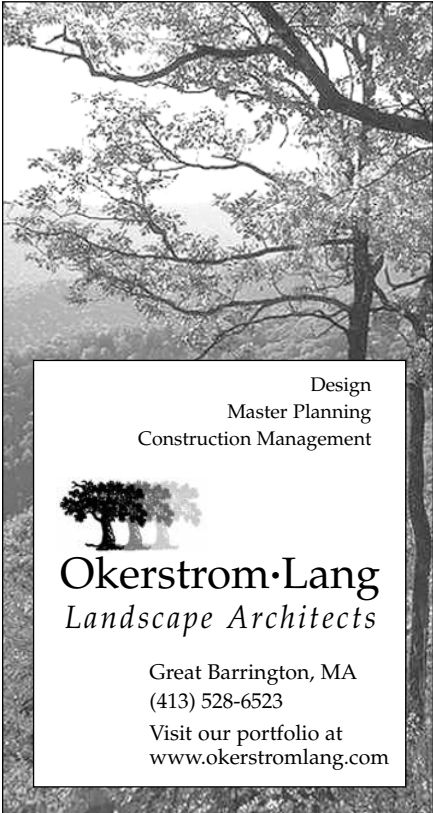
Christine Martin
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cell
413-717-7217

fax
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made their way through.

And I marvel how they revive me,

and instill hope,

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—Melinda Olds

August, 1996

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Roger Tryon

Some fires are promising! Hannah Fries is lighting the first fire of the season in Roger Tryon's sugar house. Sugaring is always unpredictable. That's certainly the case this year.

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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the Monterey News to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, March 7 and 21, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, March 8, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Wednesday, March 9 and 23, at 10 a.m.

Free wellness clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, March 10, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, April 14, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, March 2, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursday, March 10 and 24, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Mondays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28, at 8:30am Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Office/Town Hall Closings

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend always calling ahead.



Maureen Banner

Special town meeting, at the fire house. Above, left to right, town counsel Jeremiah Polard, board members Steve Weisz, Kenn Basler, and Scott "One-more-meeting" Jenssen.



Maureen Banner

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GOULD FARM Harvesting Hope • Promoting Recovery

Calendar

Hockey rink schedule on page 17

Every Monday except holidays: Select board meetings, 8:30 a.m. for March.

Every Tuesday:

Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission. Cards and Games club, at 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., at the town hall.

Tuesdays, March 1 and 8: Sewing circle, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Tuesday, March 1: Presidential Primary, Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monterey firehouse.

Thursday, March 10:

Wellness clinic, BVNA, town hall meeting room, 2 to 3 p.m.

Republican town party meeting, 4:30 p.m., church basement. See page 4.

Friday, March 11: Knox Gallery opening: *Reworded: Paintings by Andrew Zdziarski*.

Saturday, March 12: Knox Gallery: *Reworded: Paintings by Andrew Zdziarski*. Reception from 6 to 7:30. See page 14.

Sunday, March 13: Put some spring in your step, and in your clock, at 2 a.m.

Monday, March 14: Balance, strength, and mobility training, 1 to 2:15 p.m. See page 11.

Tuesday, March 15: Deadline, Simple Gifts youth cultural grants. See page 11.

Wednesday, March 16: Community

potluck supper, 6 p.m., *Groundswell Rising*, video by 350MA, on fracking. At fellowship hall in the Monterey church. See page 10.

Saturday, March 19:

Republican town caucus, 1 p.m., church basement. See page 4.

Story telling, 7 p.m., Monterey Library. See page 14.

Lenox Contra Dance from 8 to 11 p.m., new dancer session at 7:45. Live music by Shindy—Randy Miller, Roger and Ross Kahle—with all dances called and taught by Dave Eisenstadter. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007. LenoxContraDance.org

Sunday, March 20: *Monterey News* deadline.

Monday, March 21:

Balance, strength, and mobility training, 1 to 2:15 p.m. See page 11.

Adult book group, *The Distant Marvels*, Chantel Acevedo. Concerns the Cuban revolution. 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library.

Sunday, March 27: Easter egg hunt, Monterey Library, 1 p.m. See page 14.

Monday, March 28: Balance, strength, and mobility training, 1 to 2:15 p.m. See page 11.

Friday, April 1: McLaughlin-Wilson scholarship application deadline. See page 12.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:

528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115

assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Dept.: 528-1443 x118

buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136

fire_service@montereyfire.org

Highway Dept.: 528-1734

mhwy@verizon.net

Library: 528-3795

montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Dept. (non-emergency): 528-1443 x116,

Alternate emergency 528-3211

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(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

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*Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, p. 18, George Emmons, p. 19;
Bonner McAllester, p. 16.*

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